



U.S. Department of Justice

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NEWS SUMMARY

**Illinois Man Charged In Connection With Kickback Scheme
Which Defrauded S.C. Johnson & Son, Inc.**

Acting United States Attorney Michelle L. Jacobs announced that yesterday the grand jury returned an indictment charging Thomas H. Buske (age: 50), of Edwardsville, Illinois in connection with a transportation kickback scheme which resulted in the theft of millions of dollars from Racine-based consumer products manufacturer S.C. Johnson & Son, Co., Inc. ("SCJ"). The 23-count indictment alleges mail fraud, interstate transportation of stolen property, and money laundering. These charges carry a maximum possible penalty ranging from ten to twenty years imprisonment, and up to \$250,000 in fines.

According to the indictment, the fraud scheme resulted in SCJ paying inflated prices for transportation services, and kickbacks being paid to a former employee of SCJ by vendors of transportation services. In December 2008, six other persons were charged in connection with this incident.

The United States Postal Inspection Service and the Criminal Investigations Division of the Internal Revenue Service continue to investigate the underlying fraud scheme. Anyone wishing to provide information concerning this ongoing investigation should contact the Milwaukee Office of the Postal Inspection Service at 414-287-2200. This case was assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Stephen A. Ingraham for prosecution.

The public is cautioned that an indictment is merely the formal method of returning charges against an individual and does not constitute evidence of his guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until such time, if ever, that the government establishes his or her guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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